

## REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated 30 July 2004.

### 1. Original Patent.

The Office Action indicates that the original patent or a statement as to the loss or inaccessibility of the original patent must be received before the reissue application can be allowed. Applicant respectfully requests that this requirement be indicated as already having been fulfilled.

The original patent was submitted with the reissue application on the original filing date of 19 November 2003. Appendix I of this Amendment provides a copy of the itemized postcard receipt that was filed with the reissue application and which lists the Original Letters Patent (item 8) as being among those items received by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). A stamp bearing the serial number was affixed to the postcard by the USPTO prior to its return to the below-listed attorney's offices. In addition, Appendix I includes a copy of the Reissue Patent Application Transmittal letter which indicates in item 11 of the Accompanying Application Parts section that the Original Patent Grant, Ribbed Original Patent Grant was transmitted to the USPTO when the Reissue Application was filed. Furthermore, Appendix I includes a copy of the Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail that was filed with the application on 19 November 2003. This Certificate of Mailing also certifies that the correspondence included the Original Letters Patent.

Accordingly, the original patent has already been received by the USPTO in this reissue matter, and applicants respectfully

request that that this requirement be indicated as having been fulfilled.

## 2. Specification.

The Office Action objects to the disclosure because certificate-of-correction changes were indicated in the Preliminary Amendment rather than being entered without underlining. Appendix II of this Amendment provides replacement sheets for the filed copy of the original patent (6,104,761). The replacement sheets effect the certificate-of-correction changes as follows:

In the Column 2, Line 1: please delete "a" and insert -- $\alpha$ -- therefor.

In the Column 2, Line 1, : please delete "a" and insert -- $\alpha$ -- therefor.

In the Column 5, Line 64,: please delete "tN" and insert -- $t_N$ -- therefor.

In the Column 8, Line 15,: please delete "12" and insert -- $t_2$ -- therefor.

In the Column 18, Line 5,: please delete "coincident ally" and insert --coincidentally-- therefor.

These changes have been made without using amendment marks.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the objection to the disclosure be removed.

## 3. Claim Objection.

The Office Action objects to the dependency of claims 12 and 13. The present amendment amends claims 12 and 13 to recite the dependency suggested by the Office Action. The Office Action also objects to an improper format used for presenting new claims 30-37. But the present Amendment cancels new claims 30-37 so

this objection is deemed moot. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the objection to the claims be removed.

**4. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103.**

The Office Action rejected claims 30-37 under 35. U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over May et al. in view of Cova (U.S. Patent 6,141,390). The present Amendment cancels claims 30-37. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that this rejection be removed.

**5. Allowable Subject Matter.**

The Office Action indicated that claims 1-10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18-22 were allowed over the prior art of record. The present Amendment makes no change to these claims, other than the above-discussed correction of dependency in claims 12 and 13. Accordingly, claims 1-10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18-22 remain allowable over the prior art of record.

**6. Prior Art.**

The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the prior art identified on the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement that accompanies this Amendment.

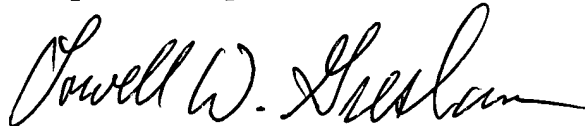
In addition, the examiner's initials were inadvertently omitted next to the listing of the May et al. article in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted by applicants when the application was filed. Since the May et al. article was used in rejecting claims 30-37, this item was obviously considered. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the examiner to insure that the consideration of the May et al. article be reflected in the record.

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**7. Conclusion.**

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments place the reissue application in a condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lowell W. Gresham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

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